

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAJ-01 /080 W

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R 291616Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7015

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, IS, AU

SUBJECT: REPLIES TO ISRAEL ON CHANCELLOR'S REMARKS

REF: VIENNA 9057

1. ACCORDING TO VIENNA SOCIALIST "ARBEITER ZEITUNG" OF OCTOBER 28, CHANCELLOR KREISKY INFORMED ISRAELI AMBASSADOR TO VIENNA DAGAN OCTOBER 27 THAT DISCUSSION OF WIESENTHAL ATTACKS AGAINST FPO PARTY CHAIRMAN PETER MUST BE CONSIDERED "EXCLUSIVELY DOMESTIC AFFAIR" AND THAT IN CHANCELLOR'S OBSERVATIONS ON MATTER HE HAD NEVER MEANT TO QUESTION EXISTENCE OF ISRAEL AND ITS PEOPLE. (REFTEL). PROOF OF LATTER, KREISKY CONTINUED, WAS POSITION (IN SUPPORT OF ISRAEL) AUSTRIA HAD TAKEN IN UN ON SUBJECT.

2. OTHER RELATED DEVELOPMENT WAS APPEARANCE THIS WEEK OF FIRST OF SERIES OF BIOGRAPHIC ARTICLES ON WIESENTHAL IN PROFIL, AUSTRIA'S POPULAR WEEKLY PUBLICATION. MAGAZINE'S MESSAGE IS THAT, HAVING SOMEHOW MIRACULOUSLY SURVIVED DEATH AND DESTRUCTION INFLICTED ON JEWS
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DURING WORLD WAR II, WIESENTHAL MADE COMMITMENT TO

SPEAK OUT AGAINST TYRANNIES OF EXTREME RIGHT AND LEFT
AND, IN CASE OF RIGHT, TO ASSIST IN LOCATING NAZIS
INVOLVED IN WAR CRIMES. OTHER POINT OF ARTICLE IS THAT
SUBSTANCE OF KREISKY'S ATTACKS AGAINST WIESENTHAL ARE
SAME AS THOSE SOVIET AND EE COMMUNISTS HAVE BEEN MAKING
FOR YEARS AGAINST WIESENTHAL FOR DENYING RIGHT OF
COMMUNISTS TO JUDGE NAZIS SINCE COMMUNISTS HAVE NOT
ABOLISHED TYRANNY IN THEIR OWN SYSTEM.

3. COMMENT: PROFIL SERIES, WRITTEN BY OLD AND CLOSE
FRIEND OF WIESENTHAL, HAS AIM OF OVERCOMING NUMBER OF
CLICHES SUCH AS "JEWISH MAFIA", "POLITICAL ORGE",
HENCHMAN OF ISRAEL" WHICH HAVE BECOME ASSOCIATED WITH
WIESENTHAL AND HIS ACTIVITIES. IN SO DOING,
ARTICLES WILL RAISE QUESTION IN MIND OF OBJECTIVE
READERS OF KREISKY'S POLITICAL JUDGMENT IN DEFENDING
SO STRONGLY FREEDOM PARTY CHAIRMAN PETER AGAINST
ATTACKS BY WIESENTHAL ON HIS QUESTIONABLE SS PAST. IMPLICATION IS
LIKELY TO BE LOST HOWEVER ON MOST AUSTRIANS, GIVEN
PROCLIVITY IN AUSTRIAN POLITICS, LIKE IN ANCIENT GREECE,
TO BERATE OR ELIMINATE BEARER OF BAD NEWS RATHER THAN
DEAL WITH SUBSTANCE OF MATTER. BUCHANAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: WAR CRIMES, GOVERNMENT REACTION, PRESS COMMENTS, POLITICAL LEADERS, ALLEGATIONS, WW II
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975VIENNA09150
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750375-0960
From: VIENNA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751012/aaaaakmv.tel
Line Count: 83
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 VIENNA 9057
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 APR 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <17 SEP 2003 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REPLIES TO ISRAEL ON CHANCELLOR'S REMARKS
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, IS, AU, (KREISKY, BRUNO), (WISENTHAL, SIMON)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006